(c) whether necessary amendments on TRIPS under GATT would be made and in the interest of direct foreign investment restrictions on the consumer goods industry will be lifted for multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Arthur Lehman Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, New York and Professor T. N. Srinivasan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, New Haven, were invited to study the economic reforms underway and to make recommendations for future action. They have submitted their Report in July, 1993.

(b) and (c) The authors have not as such suggested scrapping of the Public Distribution System (PDS). They have recommended reforms in the PDS which should aim at improving its targetting of the poor. The system of Food Stamps has been suggested as one of the alternative ways of targetting the poor more effectively. They have also suggested a compromise in regard to the acceptance of intellectual property rules which according to them, should be treated as a minor cost of attracting direct foreign investment. The Government have published the report for public information and debate on the ongoing economic reforms to create wider awareness of the urgent issues which would need to be addressed as the reform process proceeds further.

Transfer of Staff in Nationalsied Banks

3698. MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a surplus staff and top heavy administration in all the nationalised banks leading to concentration of staff in big urban centres;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not shifting to rural areas and small towns where trained staff is not adequately available; and

(c) whether it is a fact that transfers are made difficult by unions due to mutual rivalries and other considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks do have pockets of surplus staff particularly in certain metropolitan and urban branches while some branches in rural/semi-urban areas may not be adequately staffed. The banks provide the staff with reference to the business requirements at a branch.

All the public sector banks have been asked to draw a time bound programme to ensure that staff is re-deployed in deficit areas. However, for various reasons, which include in some cases, resistance from the unions due to mutual rivalries, it has not been possible to re-deploy staff from surplus pockets to deficit pockets in one stroke. As per the various awards/settlements governing the service conditions of the bank employees, the members of the award staff cannot be transferred from one language area to another language area. Restrictions have, however, been placed on staff growth to enable the banks, inter alia, to overcome the problems of surplus staff in certain pockets on the one hand and need for deployment of additional staff, so recruited, to be utilised (i) against wastages, (ii) for posting in the deficit areas and (iii) for new branches. As per the reports available with the Government, banks are implementing these instructions.

Corruption Charges against Officers of State Bank of Indore

3699. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many offcers of the rank of Assistant General Manager, General

Manager, Chief General Manager and above working in different departments of the State Bank of Indore, Head Office at Indore including the Managing Director (Shri C. Shivashankar) are facing charges of corruption, irregularities, defalcation, misappropriation which are pending decision of the Board of the Bank;

(b) how many of these officers have got promotions those found in corruption and their final decision is pending for action;

(c) the reasons for not taking serious action against them which are pending since last 5 years; and

(d) what action Government are contemplating to cleanse the 'State Bank of Indore' and within what period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling Activities in East Coast

3700. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of narcotics in the country is gradually being shifted by the smugglers from the west coast to the east coast;

(b) if so, what are the areas in the east coast identified for the possibility of smuggling activities; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The basic pattern of smuggling of narcotics in to the country, in respect of main drugs heroin and hashish from across Indo-Pak border and the West Coast remains unchanged. However, there is an increase in the number of seizures of heroin on East Coast bound for Sri Lanka.

(b) The coastal area of Tamil Nadu is vulnerable for smuggling of heroin from India to Sri Lanka.

(c) (1) Stringent laws have been enacted to combat drug trafficking.

(2) All enforcement agencies under the Central and State Governments have stepped up enforcement efforts in the vulnerable areas of East Coast.

(3) Capabilities of enforcement agencies have been strengthened with additional resources like vehicles, surveillance equipments, communication equipments, Lab facilities for testing of drugs, specialised training etc.

GIC's Functioning in Bihar

3701. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Insurance Companies are insuring the livestock including the poultry and crops, orchards of the farmers throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many farmers had insured their livestocks and crops in the state of Bihar with the GICs during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether GICs business in the state of Bihar has been satisfactory;

(e) if not, the actions Government propose to take to popularise General Insurance in Bihar, particularly among the farmers of the state; and

(f) whether Government have formulated special General Insurance Plans for the drought affected areas; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.